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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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A report containing information on a sugar refinery in Otmuchow

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COUNTRY : Poland DATE: 4 October 1957
 SUBJECT : Sugar Refinery in Otmuchow NO. OF PAGES: 5

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General

1. The Otmuchow Sugar Refinery (Cukrownia Otmuchow), which had been built after WW I and later modernized, was the second largest of its kind in Poland. The refinery was subordinate, through the Association of the Sugar Industry (Zjednoczenie Przemyslu Cukrowniczego) in Raciborz (N 50-05, E 18-12), to the Central Administration of the Sugar Industry in Warsaw (Centralny Zarzad Przemyslu Cukrowniczego). It was located about two kilometers East of the railroad station in Otmuchow (N 50-28, E 17-09) and occupied about 15 hectares of fenced-in land with its own railroad siding.
2. The refinery employed about 500 permanent employees, of whom approximately 15 percent were women. Of the total employees, there were about 30 white-collared administrative personnel; 170 miscellaneous administrative workers, such as industrial guards, fire brigade workers, drivers, and unskilled laborers; about 200 mechanics and skilled workers in charge of operation and maintenance of machinery installations; and about 100 so-called "plantation service" personnel who were responsible for the contracting and delivery of sugar beet from individual farmers, cooperatives and state farms.
3. The refinery was in full operation for only about 90 days of each year -- from 1 October to the beginning of January. This period was known as the "Campaign" (Kampania). During the campaign period, the refinery employed approximately 2,500 additional workers, about 50 percent of whom were women. These seasonal workers were recruited for a period of three months mainly from the Rzeszow (N 50-03, E 22-00), Mielec (N 50-17, E 21-25), Krakow, and Nowy Targ (N 49-29, E 20-02) areas. The workers were housed in workers' hotels, barracks, or buildings in the vicinity which had been rented by the refinery.

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4. During the campaign period, the refinery worked on three shifts at 0600, 1400, and 2200 hours. In the other months there was only one shift which during the summer worked five days a week from 0600 to 1400 hours; in the winter from 0700 to 1500 hours; and on Saturdays from 0600 or 0700 to 1200 or 1300 hours.

Organization

5. The chief director of the refinery was Dipl. Engineer Alfred Gronkiewicz. Subordinate to him were the following three deputy directors, each of whom had a large staff divided into departments and sections:

a. First Deputy Director and Chief Engineer: Dipl. Engineer Stanislaw Czerwinski.

The chief engineer was responsible for the operation of the entire refinery and its production. He controlled the departments of the chief mechanic; chief electrician; chief chemist with laboratory and technical control; department of supplies; department of technical and industrial planning; section for work safety and hygiene; and the fire brigade.

b. Deputy Director for Administrative and Commercial Matters: Leszek Gieruszynski.

The Deputy Director for Administrative Matters controlled the following departments: personnel; bookkeeping; wages and pay; transportation; planning and finance; logistics; sales; local antiaircraft defense; and the industrial guard.

c. Deputy Director for all Raw Material Matters (formerly known as Chief Inspector of Plantation Service): Jan Was, an agro-technician.

The Deputy Director for Raw Materials had a large office with administrative personnel and a bookkeeping staff to handle records. Under him were a chief agronomist, five regional inspectors and about 20 agro-technicians, each of whom had an assigned area in which they were responsible for making contracts or agreements concerning sugar beet cultivation.

Raw Materials and Supplies

6. Between 1954-56, the refinery had yearly contracts with about 20 state agricultural farm clusters; about 40 production cooperatives; and about 4,000 individual farmers who supplied 60 percent of the sugar beet. Agreements were made that a specific number of hectares were to be planted. All of the planters with the exception of the state agricultural farms, received sugar beet seeds and fertilizers from the refinery. They also received advice and help concerning the planting from the refinery agronomist and the agro-technicians.

about 1,800,000 quintals of raw sugar beet were purchased by the refinery. Of this amount, about 500,000 quintals came from outside sources and had not been contracted for.

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7. The farmers and other sources of supply delivered the sugar beet either directly to the refinery or to local delivery points, which were organized and serviced by the plantation service during the campaign period. The refinery furnished transportation from these points by railway or wagon.

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8. To the individual farmers and cooperatives with whom it had contracts, the refinery paid 48 zlotys for one quintal of sugar beet, irregardless of the sugar content, and an additional 72 zlotys for each quintal supplied above the contract. The state agriculture farms were paid only 48 zlotys because they never met the agreement obligations.
9. Coal, about 15 kilograms of which was needed for refining one quintal of sugar beet, and limestone were regularly supplied by the branch office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry in Katowice, in accordance with orders of the Central Administration of the Sugar Industry. Spare parts for machinery were bought from different trade agencies.

Production

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10. [redacted] the yearly sugar beet production of the Otmuchow Refinery in 1954 was about 8,000 tons; in 1955 about 9,500 tons; and in 1956 about 10,800 tons. From these amounts about 80-percent fine granulated sugar (F.G.) was produced and 20 percent so-called consumer sugar (Ks). All F.G. sugar was exported through the Polish Rollimpex Export Agency. [redacted] in 1954 and 1955 about 40 percent of the sugar produced in Otmuchow was exported to the USSR and about 60 percent to Austria and Sweden. In 1956, only about 15 percent went to the USSR and the remainder to [redacted] and Yugoslavia. The Ks sugar was used for domestic consumption and it was distributed under the direction of the Central Administration of the Sugar Industry. The sugar for export was packed in jute bags, and the sugar for home consumption in strong paper sacks. Because a large amount of sugar was stored there throughout the year, the refinery had large warehouse facilities. 25X1
11. In addition to sugar, the refinery also produced by-and end-products such as beet pulp (wyslodki) and molasses (melas). Beet pulp was classified into three categories: moist, press, and dried. The pulp normally was stored in the sugar refinery as a so-called state reserve of animal fodder, and usually in the spring was sent by freight cars to different state agricultural farms, according to orders of the Central Administration of the Sugar Industry. A large amount of dried pulp was used for the dehumidifying of freight cars which transported the sugar. A certain amount of pulp was also sold to individual farmers. Each contractor was entitled to buy 38 kilograms of moist pulp, or nine kilograms of dried pulp for every quintal of sugar beet delivered. Molasses in liquid form was shipped by special railroad tank cars to various chemical factories and distilleries, according to the distribution plan of the Central Administration of the Sugar Industry. 25X1
12. During the period of the campaign, the Sugar Refinery submitted a daily telephone report to the Central Administration of the Sugar Industry in Warsaw. It was partly coded and contained the following information:
 - a. Amount of sugar beet on hand.
 - b. Amount of sugar beet at the delivery points.
 - c. Amount of sugar beet cut during the last 24-hour period.
 - d. Amount of sugar obtained from a quintal.
 - e. Polarization.
 - f. Amount of coal on hand.
 - g. Amount of sugar stored in the warehouses.

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Equipment and Machinery

13. The equipment and machinery of the refinery were mainly of pre-war German production although there were a few new machines of Polish production from the Industrial Equipment Plant (Swidnicka Fabryka Urzadzen Przemyslowych) in Swidnica. The installations [redacted] were in good condition and could be regarded as modern. There were about 574 different type machines, each driven by an individual electric motor. There were also mechanized facilities for transportation, such as cranes, lifts, machines for packing sugar, and sewing machines for the sewing of sugar bags. In addition to the electric current which was supplied from the national electric net, the sugar refinery had its own electric turbine which was put into operation only during the campaign period. There was also a large boiler house, with six boilers.

14. Capital and maintenance repairs were conducted regularly during the 9 months preceding the campaign, under the supervision of the chief engineer, chief mechanic and chief electrician. Transportation facilities of the refinery included: three locomotives and about 30 railroad tank cars rented from the Ministry of Railways for transportation of molasses; two tractors; four trucks; three cars; wagons, and 12 teams of horses.

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Salaries

15. [redacted] salaries and wages,
the following monthly figures:

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Chief Director, plus 50 percent production premium paid only during campaign period	c. 2,500 zlotys net
Deputy Director Technical Matters, plus 40 percent permanent maintenance premium	c. 1,800 " "
Deputy Director for Administration, plus 30 percent permanent financial premium	c. 1,500 " "
Deputy Director for Raw Materials, plus 40 percent permanent plantation premium	c. 1,800 " "
Administration employees	570 - 1,500 " "
Technical skilled personnel	800 - 2,000 " "
Personnel of the Plantation Service	600 - 1,800 " "
Workers of so-called industrial group	600 - 1,200 " "
Workers of non-industrial group (guards, unskilled laborers, wagon drivers)	570 - 900 " "
Seasonal unskilled worker	570 - 1,000 " "

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16. In addition, all permanent employees received monthly about 160 kilograms of coal and 50 kilograms of firewood for a reduced price, which was about 10 percent of the market price. They were also entitled to buy 20 tons of beet pulp for 12 zlotys which they could then resell for 500 to 700 zlotys on the open market. Depending upon their position, seasonal workers received, in addition to their wages, from 0.5 to 1.5 kilograms of sugar free daily. They could also buy 50 kilograms of sugar in shops at the reduced price of 11 zlotys instead of 12.

Party

17. About 90 percent of all permanent employees came from the former Polish Sugar Refinery in Chodorow, which since 1945 had been incorporated into the USSR. Because of their many years of previous employment together, they were a close-bonded group. The remaining 10 percent of the employees were made up of local inhabitants. About one-fifth, or approximately 100 permanent employees, were members of the PZPR. Marcin Wrobel, a worker, was Secretary of the Basic Party Organization (POP) at the refinery. He was put on the payroll as a foreman, but actually was required to do no work outside of his Party activities.
18. The Party very seldom held any meetings, and the majority of the members were not true Communists. There was a Polish Youth Organization (ZMP) at the refinery but it actually existed only on paper and was not active. A local Workers' Council was organized in April 1957 but [redacted] played no important role.

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